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25X1

Approved For Release 2002/10/21 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002900550001-9

Approved For Release 2002/10/21 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002900550001-9

CONTENTS

25X1



- CID* 3. ASIAN COMMUNIST FRONT TO HOLD FIRST CONFERENCE
IN CAIRO [REDACTED]

25X1A



25X1

5. USSR REPORTEDLY BACKS DOWN ON AGREEMENT TO
ASSIST YUGOSLAV ALUMINUM INDUSTRY [REDACTED]

25X1A

- CID* 6. BRITISH BELIEVE EOKA TERRORIST CAPABILITIES NOW
SEVERELY LIMITED [REDACTED]

25X1A

- CID* 7. SOUTH KOREAN ENVOY "OPTIMISTIC" CONCERNING RE-
OPENING OF TALKS WITH JAPAN [REDACTED]

25X1A

- CID* 8. ISHIBASHI'S ABILITY TO RESUME DUTIES IN DOUBT
[REDACTED]

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25X1

Approved For Release 2002/10/21 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002900550001-9

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2002/10/21 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002900550001-9

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3. ASIAN COMMUNIST FRONT TO HOLD FIRST CONFERENCE IN CAIRO

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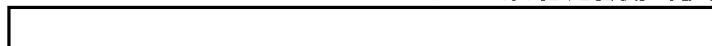


President Nasr has approved the convocation of an "Asian-African Solidarity Conference" --at a date as yet unannounced-- in Cairo, according to Dr. Anup Singh, secretary of the "Asian Solidarity Com-

mittee." This conference is the first planned by a Communist-dominated organization which has the potential to become the major Communist front for Asia. Nasr may try to use the conference to propagandize Asian-African support of Egypt's position vis-a-vis Israel and the West.

The committee was set up in 1955 by the Asian Conference for the Relaxation of International Tensions, which met in New Delhi under the influence of the Communist-sponsored World Peace Council. National committees were established in Communist China, the USSR, North Korea and North Vietnam, as well as in India and Japan, in 1955 and 1956. Although the committee has been successful in obtaining support from some non-Communist Asian personalities and Indians play the primary role in the secretariat, most of the leaders are also officials of the World Peace Council.

The USSR is accepted by the Solidarity Committee as an Asian country, and with Communist China may use the conference to further new economic and "cultural" relationships in Asia and Africa. Inclusion of Africa in the conference suggests that an attempt will be made to broaden the geographical scope of the cultural and economic activities of the committee.

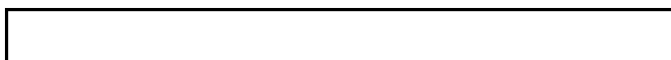


25X1A

19 Feb 57

Current Intelligence Bulletin

Page 5



25X1

Approved For Release 2002/10/21 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002900550001-9

Approved For Release 2002/10/21 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002900550001-9

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5. USSR REPORTEDLY BACKS DOWN ON AGREEMENT TO ASSIST YUGOSLAV ALUMINUM INDUSTRY

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The Soviet Union has made it clear that the East German-Soviet agreement to aid Yugoslavia in building an aluminum complex cannot be put into effect until 1961 when the current Soviet Five-Year Plan

will be completed,

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Comment

Soviet cancellation of the \$175,000,000 credit granted in August 1956 for the construction of a large aluminum complex in Yugoslavia to be completed by 1960 clearly indicates that the USSR is now attempting to bring economic pressure to bear in the ideological struggle between Moscow and Belgrade. According to the Yugoslavs, negotiations in Moscow for a new trade agreement have been proceeding with difficulty. Trade talks with the East Germans were suspended recently when Belgrade withheld indirect recognition of the Pankow regime by refusing to sign the trading arrangement on the governmental level.

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**6. BRITISH BELIEVE EOKA TERRORIST CAPABILITIES
NOW SEVERELY LIMITED**

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British authorities on Cyprus are confident that their recent "very substantial" successes against EOKA have severely limited the terrorist organization's ability to carry out its plans for violence during the UN debate on Cyprus. These officials also told the American consul that they have "extensive factual evidence" of Athens' complicity in EOKA's campaign for use in the debate.

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Comment

Recent indications suggest that British forces on Cyprus may have crippled EOKA so seriously in the past two weeks that it can no longer mount co-ordinated attacks. However, isolated attacks will probably continue.

The recent sharp rise in confidence of the British on Cyprus may indicate a belief that they will soon capture EOKA leader Grivas. The British will also probably try in the UN to exploit official Greek complicity, although the consul reports the evidence he has seen is unconvincing.

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7. SOUTH KOREAN ENVOY "OPTIMISTIC" CONCERNING REOPENING OF TALKS WITH JAPAN

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South Korean minister to Japan Kim Yong-sik has told Ambassador Dowling in Seoul that he is now "very optimistic" concerning prospects for reopening talks between Japan and South Korea aimed at "normalizing" their relations.

Kim stated that President Rhee had agreed to postpone demands for the return of four of his political enemies from Japan, thus removing the final obstacle to an agreement involving a simultaneous mutual release of detained nationals and renunciation by Japan of property claims in Korea. Commencement of negotiations on broader issues would follow this preliminary agreement.

Comment Continuing anti-Japanese propaganda from Seoul indicates that Rhee may desire only a partial settlement with Japan.

The return of detainees would remove a major cause of friction between Japan and South Korea. Japan now holds 1,400 Koreans, mostly illegal entrants, while South Korea has detained about 700 Japanese fishermen who have served sentences for violating the "Rhee line" fisheries boundary.



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8. ISHIBASHI'S ABILITY TO RESUME DUTIES IN DOUBT

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The continued illness of Japanese prime minister Ishibashi may prevent him from appearing before the Diet on 21 February as scheduled. His failure to appear would probably raise Socialist and press criticism of the government to fever pitch. It has already precipitated a renewal of power struggles within Japan's ruling conservative party. The American embassy reports that Ishibashi and his cabinet may be forced to resign if his convalescence extends into March.

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Should Ishibashi remain incapacitated, the necessity of providing effective substitute leadership and of quelling intraparty discord suggests that Foreign Minister Kishi might be appointed deputy prime minister, thereby making him a logical choice to succeed Ishibashi in the future.